(b) the number of handicapped persons provided with suitable jobs from the past three years;

(c) whether there is any vacancy in the reserved posts meant for handicapped persons; and

(d) whether there is any new proposal to create new avenues for the upliftment of the handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The number of handicapped job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered in different employment exchanges of Tamil Nadu as on 31-12-1997 (latest available), was of the order of 53,000.

(b) The number of handicapped job-seekers, placed in employment through employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu during the year 1995,1996 and 1997 was of the order of 900, 910 and 1000 respectively.

(c) Employment Exchanges sponsor the candidates as per the vacancies notified to them. Employers decide the reservation as per the existing instructions.

(d) There is a centrally sponsored scheme to help persons with disabilities in getting gainful employment either through Special Cells in normal Employment Exchanges or Special Employment Exchanges for persons with disabilities. The scheme is implemented through the Labour Department of State Government/UT Administrations. The financial assistance from the Central Government, the State Government and UT administration is given for running Special Employment Exchanges and Special Cells for persons with disabilities on 80% and 100% basis respectively. Grant-in-aid has been given for setting up/maintenance of Special Cells and Special Employment Exchanges in the country.

Ban on Strikes

4195. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for restricting all kinds of strikes, hartals, etc. is under consideration by amending certain labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, whether amending the labour laws is on the cards in view of the economic reform process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. A cautious policy is adopted to bring about any amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

Indian Labour Conference

4196. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 36th session of the Indian Labour Conference was held in Delhi on 15th and 16th April, this year; and

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The 36th Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held on 14th and 15th April, 2000.

(b) The Conference considered and discussed agenda items relating to industrial sickness, workers' participation in industry and workers' education. As an effort to revive and restructure public sector enterprises, the Conference recommended setting up of a separate restructuring fund and constitution of a fully empowered Restructing Commission. The Conference accepted the Principle of participation of workers in industry for the benefit of social partners and government. It also recommended institution of a National Revolving Fund for labour education and setting up of Labour Academies by State Govts. to provide quality education to the children of workers.

Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers

4197. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Central Schemes under which welfare of Beedi Workers are being ensured in the rural areas, and achievements made so far;

(b) whether Jajpur and Cuttack Districts of Orissa have a large number of Beedi Workers and no welfare activities including medical facilities are not being provided to them; and